

A6 1 8. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the head and equipment used for the
2 electrical testing are exposed to the ambient atmosphere.

1 10. (Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the head is surrounded by a shroud while
2 directing the flow of gas and subjecting the head to the electrical testing.

1 11. (Amended) A device for testing a head to be used in a sealed disk drive to read/write
2 data of a storage disk, the device comprising:

A7 3 a manifold having an opening for providing a flow of gas from a source of gas;
4 the opening being positioned to direct the flow of gas to a surface of a storage disk
5 positioned adjacent to the head;
6 the manifold not to be used in the sealed disk drive.

1 12. (Amended) The device of claim 11 wherein the head and manifold are mounted on a
2 head gimbal assembly holder not to be used in the sealed disk drive.

1 13. (Amended) The device of claim 11 wherein the manifold includes a plurality of
2 apertures extending radially relative to the disk.

1 14. (Amended) The device of claim 11 further comprising tubing constructed to deliver
2 the gas to the manifold.

1 18. (Amended) A method of testing a head to be used in a sealed disk drive, comprising
2 directing a flow of helium from a manifold across the head, between the head and a disk, while
3 subjecting the head to dynamic electrical testing, wherein the sealed disk drive excludes the
4 manifold.

1 19. (Amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising causing the helium to flow at
2 a flow rate of from about 40 to 60 ft³/hr.

1 20. (Amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising causing the helium to flow
2 across the head for a predetermined time substantially equal to the time required for the dynamic
3 electrical testing.

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1 21. (Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the manifold comprises an exit through
2 which the helium flows, and the method further comprises positioning the exit from about 0.005
3 to 0.010 inch above the surface of a disk that is being used in the dynamic electrical testing.

1 22. (Amended) The method of claims 4 or 18 wherein the manifold comprises a two
2 piece assembly.

1 23. (Amended) The method of claims 4 or 18 wherein the manifold comprises an angled
2 bore.

Add the following claims:

1 26. A method of making a disk drive, comprising the following steps in the sequence
2 set forth:

3 positioning a head relative to a disk;

4 directing a gas at the disk while rotating the disk such that the gas is dragged across the
5 head between the head and the disk and while electrically testing the head using the disk; and
6 sealing the head in the disk drive.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein directing the gas forms a curtain of the gas that is
2 localized to a slider-disk boundary layer.

1 28. The method of claim 26 wherein directing the gas blocks incoming air from being
2 dragged between the head and the disk.

1 29. The method of claim 26 wherein directing the gas blocks incoming air from
2 mixing with the gas between the head and the disk.

1 30. The method of claim 26 including directing the gas at an angle perpendicular to a
2 surface of the disk that faces towards the head.

1 31. The method of claim 26 including directing the gas an angle perpendicular to a
2 surface of the head that faces towards the disk.

1 32. The method of claim 26 including directing the gas through a manifold aperture
2 positioned from about 0.005 to 0.010 inch above a surface of the disk that faces towards the
3 head.

1 33. The method of claim 26 including directing the gas through a plurality of
2 manifold apertures arranged as a single row that extends radially relative to the disk.

1 34. The method of claim 26 including directing the gas through a plurality of
2 manifold apertures arranged as a U-shape.

1 35. The method of claim 26 including directing the gas at a flow rate of from about 40
2 to 60 ft³/hr.

1 36. The method of claim 26 including directing the gas for less than 30 seconds.

1 37. The method of claim 26 including directing the gas for less than 15 seconds.

1 38. The method of claim 26 including directing the gas and electrically testing the
2 head for substantially equal amounts of time.

1 39. The method of claim 26 wherein the gas is helium.

1 40. The method of claim 26 including sealing the head and the gas in the disk drive.

1 41. A method of making a disk drive, comprising the following steps in the sequence
2 set forth:

3 providing a head that includes an air-bearing surface;

4 positioning the head relative to a disk such that the air-bearing surface faces towards a
5 surface of the disk;

6 directing helium through tubing at the disk surface while rotating the disk such that the
7 disk rotation drags the helium across the air-bearing surface between the air-bearing surface and
8 the disk surface and while dynamically electrically testing the head using the disk; and
9 sealing the head and helium in the disk drive.

1 42. The method of claim 41 wherein directing the helium blocks incoming air from
2 being dragged between the air-bearing surface and the disk surface.

1 42. The method of claim 41 wherein directing the helium blocks incoming air from
2 mixing with the helium between the air-bearing surface and the disk surface.

1 43. The method of claim 41 including directing the helium at an angle perpendicular
2 to the disk surface before the helium strikes the disk surface.

1 44. The method of claim 41 including directing the helium through a manifold
2 aperture positioned from about 0.005 to 0.010 inch above the disk surface.

1 45. The method of claim 41 including directing the helium through a plurality of
2 manifold apertures arranged as a single row that extends radially relative to the disk surface.

1 46. The method of claim 41 including directing the helium through a plurality of
2 manifold apertures arranged as a U-shape.

1 47. The method of claim 41 including directing the helium at a flow rate of from
2 about 40 to 60 ft³/hr.

1 48. The method of claim 41 including directing the helium for less than 30 seconds.

1 49. The method of claim 41 including directing the helium for less than 15 seconds.

1 50. The method of claim 41 including directing the helium and dynamically
2 electrically testing the head for substantially equal amounts of time.

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1 51. A method of making a disk drive, comprising the following steps in the sequence
2 set forth:
3 providing a head that includes an air-bearing surface;
4 positioning the head relative to a disk such that the air-bearing surface faces towards a
5 surface of the disk;
6 directing helium at the disk surface from a gas source that remains external to the disk
7 drive while rotating the disk such that the disk rotation drags the helium across the air-bearing
8 surface between the air-bearing surface and the disk surface and while dynamically electrically
9 testing the head using the disk; and
10 sealing the head and helium in the disk drive.

1 52. The method of claim 51 wherein directing the helium blocks incoming air from
2 being dragged between the air-bearing surface and the disk surface.

1 52. The method of claim 51 wherein directing the helium blocks incoming air from
2 mixing with the helium between the air-bearing surface and the disk surface.

1 53. The method of claim 51 including directing the helium at an angle perpendicular
2 to the disk surface before the helium strikes the disk surface.

1 54. The method of claim 51 including directing the helium through a manifold
2 aperture positioned from about 0.005 to 0.010 inch above the disk surface.

1 55. The method of claim 51 including directing the helium through a plurality of
2 manifold apertures arranged as a single row that extends radially relative to the disk surface.

1 56. The method of claim 51 including directing the helium through a plurality of
2 manifold apertures arranged as a U-shape.

1 57. The method of claim 51 including directing the helium at a flow rate of from
2 about 40 to 60 ft³/hr.

1 58. The method of claim 51 including directing the helium for less than 30 seconds.

1 59. The method of claim 51 including directing the helium for less than 15 seconds.

1 60. The method of claim 51 including directing the helium and dynamically
2 electrically testing the head for substantially equal amounts of time.
